

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) ~~[[An]]~~ A method for automatically performing instant messaging actions ~~method~~ comprising the steps of:

displaying a user selectable list of subscribers in a graphical user interface of an instant messaging service;

selecting a group of subscribers in an inactive state from the list in the graphical user interface, the inactive state being any state where an instant messaging session cannot be established with a subscriber, types of inactive state including an offline state, a do-not-disturb state, and an out-of-office state;

displaying in the graphical user interface the subscribers in the selected group in a visually distinctive manner so that a user can identify the subscribers being monitored for a state change;

displaying in the graphical user interface options of action to be performed when a subscriber in the selected group becomes active;

designating at least one action from the options of action for each type of inactive state ~~associated with the group~~ via the graphical user interface, the at least one designated action to be automatically performed with respect to each subscriber in the group when the subscriber's state changes from the type of inactive state to an active state ~~in response to a state change;~~

monitoring a state change for each subscriber in the selected group;

automatically detecting a state change of at least one of said subscribers in said group; and

automatically executing said designated action associated with ~~said group~~ for said at least one subscriber responsive to said detecting step.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said action is an instant messaging initiation action that initiates an instant messaging session between the user ~~said client~~ and said at least one subscriber.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein said action includes at least one action selected from the group consisting of a notification action, a prompting action, and a message conveyance action.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein all ~~said selecting, said designating, said associating, said detecting, and said executing~~ steps are performed by said instant messaging client.

5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein said instant messaging client includes a Lotus Sametime (TM) type client.

6-9. (Cancelled).

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein said at least one action further comprises presenting within a graphical user interface a list of said subscribers in said group and within said graphical user interface, visually distinguishing said at least one subscriber with state change from other subscribers in said list.

11-37. (Cancelled).

38. (Currently Amended) A machine-readable storage having stored thereon, a computer program having a plurality of code sections, said code sections executable by a machine for causing the machine to perform the steps of:

displaying a user selectable list of subscribers in a graphical user interface of an instant messaging service;

selecting a group of subscribers in an inactive state from the list in the graphical user interface, the inactive state being any state where an instant messaging session cannot be established with a subscriber, types of inactive state including an offline state, a do-not-disturb state, and an out-of-office state;

displaying in the graphical user interface the subscribers in the selected group in a visually distinctive manner so that a user can identify the subscribers being monitored for a state change;

displaying in the graphical user interface options of action to be performed when a subscriber in the selected group becomes active;

designating at least one action from the options of action for each type of inactive state associated with the group via the graphical user interface, the at least one designated action to be automatically performed with respect to each subscriber in the group when the subscriber's state changes from the type of inactive state to an active state in response to a state change;

monitoring a state change for each subscriber in the selected group;

automatically detecting a state change of at least one of said subscribers in said group; and

automatically executing said designated action associated with ~~said group~~ for said at least one subscriber responsive to said detecting step.

39. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage of claim 38, wherein said action is an instant messaging initiation action that initiates an instant messaging session between ~~said client~~ the user and said subscriber.

40. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage of claim 38, wherein said action includes at least one action selected from the group consisting of a notification action, a prompting action, and a message conveyance action.

41. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage of claim 38, wherein all ~~said selecting, said designating, said detecting, and said executing~~ steps are performed by said instant messaging client.

42. (Previously Presented) The machine-readable storage of claim 41, wherein said instant messaging client includes a Lotus Sametime.TM. type client.

43. (Cancelled).

44. (Currently Amended) The machine-readable storage of claim 38, wherein said at least one action further comprises presenting within a graphical user interface a list of said subscribers in said group and within said graphical user interface, visually distinguishing said at least one subscriber with state change from other subscribers in said list.

45. (Currently Amended) An instant messaging system comprising:
means for displaying a user selectable list of subscribers in a graphical user

interface of an instant messaging service;

means for selecting a group of subscribers in an inactive state from the list in the graphical user interface, the inactive state being any state where an instant messaging session cannot be established with a subscriber, types of inactive state including an offline state, a do-not-disturb state, and an out-of-office state;

means for displaying in the graphical user interface the subscribers in the selected group in a visually distinctive manner so that a user can identify the subscribers being monitored for a state change;

means for displaying in the graphical user interface options of action to be performed when a subscriber in the selected group becomes active;

means for designating at least one action from the options of action for each type of inactive state associated with the group via the graphical user interface, the at least one designated action to be automatically performed with respect to each subscriber in the group when the subscriber's state changes from the type of inactive state to an active state in response to a state change;

means for monitoring a state change for each subscriber in the selected group;

means for automatically detecting a state change of at least one of said subscribers in said group; and

means for automatically executing said designated action associated with said group for said at least one subscriber responsive to said detecting step.